윤미경
Mi-Kyung Yun
7
BRIDE of the WATER GOD

7

윤미경

MU JEI SUJI-I
=BY SANG-EUN LEE

BUFFETED UPON THE SPRING BREEZE,
MISTY RAIN FALLS.
IT THUNDERS GENTLY NEAR BU-YONG POND.
SMOKE RISES FROM THE TOAD-SHAPED CENSER,
WAFTING GINGERLY INTO THE ROOM.
PULL ON THE ROPE AT THE JADE TIGER WELL
AND RETURN WITH WATER.
A GIRL FROM THE GA FAMILY PEEKS IN
ON A HANYEON BOY THROUGH
THE BAMBOO BLINDS.
BOKBIE IS MAKING KING WUI STAY LONG
UPON THE PILLOW.
SPRING FEVER CANNOT BLOOM WITH
THE FLOWERS. MY MIND MISSING
A PERSON WHO HAS EMERGED
FROM AN ASHEN COCOON.

BRIDE of the WATER GOD

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SKY BRIDGE OF THE MAGPIES
—BY JIN SO YU
JIKNYEO THREADS THROUGH
THE CLOUDS BEAUTIFULLY.
GYEONWU CROSSES THE LONG,
LONG MILKY WAY TO LET HER
KNOW HOW MUCH HE MISSES HER.
MEETING ON AN AUTUMN NIGHT,
ONCE A YEAR,
IS BETTER THAN NUMEROUS MEETINGS
IN THE HUMAN WORLD.
SOFT LOVE FLOWS LIKE WATER.
FINDING EACH OTHER IS SO
DREAMLIKE.
IT TAKES SO LONG TO CROSS
THE O-JAK BRIDGE, BUT AS
LONG AS THEIR LOVE LASTS
FOREVER
HOW CAN THEY ASK FOR
MORE TIME TO MEET
IN DAY AND NIGHT?

UNTITLED
–BY LEE SANG-EUN
WHEN I WAS EIGHT,
I STOLE A QUICK GLANCE
AT THE MIRROR, AND DREW
LONG EYEBROWS ON MYSELF.
WHEN I WAS TEN, I LIKED GOING
TO COLLECT HERBS, WHILE
WEARING A SKIRT MADE OF
LILY PADS.
WHEN I WAS TWELVE, I LEARNED
HOW TO PLAY THE HARP, NEVER
ONCE PUTTING THE PICK DOWN.
WHEN I WAS FOURTEEN, I USED TO
HIDE BEHIND MY PARENTS
BECAUSE I WAS SHY
IN FRONT OF BOYS.
WHEN I WAS FIFTEEN, I FELT SAD
ABOUT THE SPRING, BUT
I DIDN'T KNOW WHY.
SO I TURNED MY FACE AWAY
AND CRIED, FEELING
THE BREEZE.

WHO ARE YOU?
FWSHAAAA

MUI...?
DO YOU KNOW ME? HOW DID YOU GET IN HERE?

ANSWER ME./ WHO ARE YOU?
촤아
SWOOSH
WHAT HAPPENS TO YOU DEPENDS ON HOW YOU ANSWER.
흠칫
AH!
HE'S SO COLD...
THIS ISN'T LIKE MUI...
THIS ISN'T--
--THE MUI THAT I KNOW.
WHO THE HELL IS THIS PERSON?

WHO ARE YOU?
YOU'RE NOT MUI!
YOU'RE RIGHT. I'M NOT MUI.
I'M HABAEK.

WHAT'S WRONG?
IT'S THE *TRUTH*-- ISN'T THAT WHAT YOU WANTED?

휘익
HWOOSH
!!
첨벙
SPLISHOOSH
부글
GLUB
GLUB
부글

THE TRUTH THAT I WANTED?
NO. I'VE BEEN AVOIDING THE TRUTH.
NO! PLEASE HELP ME...
MUI... PLEASE HELP ME!
PLEASE...
덥석
FSHHAA

YOU CAME.
I KNEW THAT YOU'D COME.

SPLOOSHAA
투둑..
PLIP DRIP
YOU HELPED ME OUT THIS TIME, SO I WILL FORGIVE YOUR PAST MISTAKES.

WITHOUT *YOU*, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN IMPOSSIBLE TO GET INTO SUGUK WITHOUT HABAEK NOTICING.
FTCH
KTCHAKK
AHH... I CAN FINALLY TAKE OFF THIS ANNOYING *MASK*.

FWOOK
HWIK
I CAN PRETEND TO BE HABAEK, BUT IT'S NOT COMFORTABLE WEARING A MASK THAT DOESN'T REALLY FIT ME.
IT'S KIND OF *BORING* PLAYING HABAEK, ANYWAY. HE CAN BE SO CONSERVATIVE!
BAN-WANG, ARE YOU THERE?

FWUP
WUP
GOOD JOB. THAT GIRL WAS SURPRISINGLY USEFUL.
YES, YOUR MAJESTY.
HWOO

HABAEK...?
I WON
AGAIN.
IT'S TOO BAD
THAT I CAN'T SEE
YOUR FACE RIGHT
NOW. BUT, WELL...
WHAT ARE YOU GOING
TO DO? YOUR
PRECIOUS LADY
IS WITH ME!
COME TO ME,
IF YOU WANT
TO SEE HER.

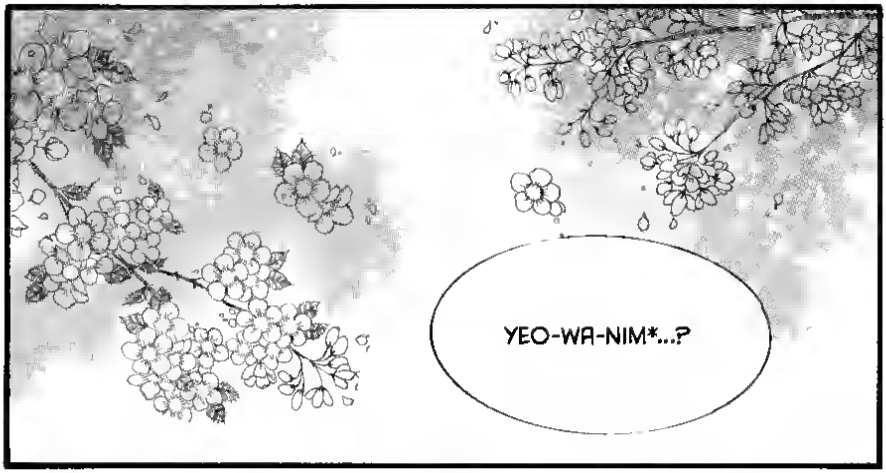
COME TO MY PALACE.

SOAH!
WHAPP
.....
SOAH...?
SHE'S THE KIND OF PERSON WHO COULD EASILY FORGET WHAT SHE OWES YOU, ISN'T SHE?

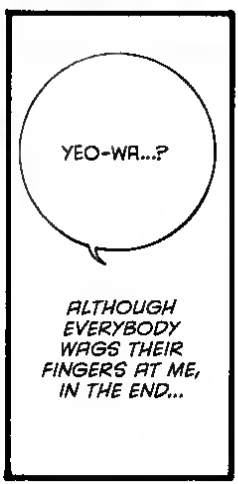
HUMANS ARE SUCH *ANIMALS.*
THEY ONLY CARE ABOUT THEMSELVES.
YOU'VE BEEN TAKING CARE OF HER THIS WHOLE TIME...
...AND SHE LEFT WITHOUT A WORD.
IT'S OBVIOUS HOW SHE COULD BE SHOCKED AFTER HABAEK DUMPED HER, BUT...
...I DIDN'T THINK SHE'D TAKE IT SO BADLY. I FEEL KIND OF SORRY FOR HER, DESPITE MYSELF.

저벅 TOKK
저벅 TOKK
휙
TURN
BUT YOU'RE A HUMAN, TOO!

쏴아아아
HWOOOSH
HMPF! I'LL HAVE THE LAST LAUGH.



*NIM. KOREAN HONORIFIC.



...I WILL BE THE ONLY BRIDE OF THE WATER GOD.
WELCOME, MY WIFE.

YOUR MAJESTY, THE WATER GOD'S ENTOURAGE WILL BE ARRIVING SOON.
FWTCH
OKAY.

HURRY UP, HABAEK.

THERE ARE SO MANY PEOPLE WAITING FOR YOU HERE. HEH HEH!

H.W.W.O.O.O.S.S.H.H

YEO-WA-NIM, WE'VE ALMOST ARRIVED AT THE PALACE.
THEN I GUESS WE'LL BE ABLE TO SEE IT SOON.

저벅
KTAKK
저벅
KTAKK

WELCOME TO THE PALACE.
MY NAME IS *CHEON-HOO*, AND I AM YOUR GUIDE TODAY. HIS MAJESTY IS WAITING FOR YOU.

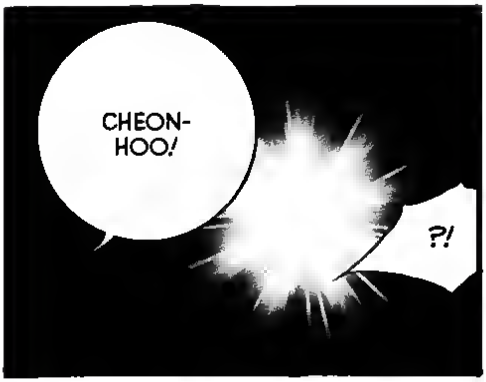
HABAEK-NIM!
DO YOU... REMEMBER ME, BY ANY CHANCE?
DID YOU SAY THAT YOUR NAME WAS *CHEON-HOO?* NO, I DON'T REMEMBER THAT NAME. SHOULD I?
IT'S NOTHING, SIR.
LET'S GO.

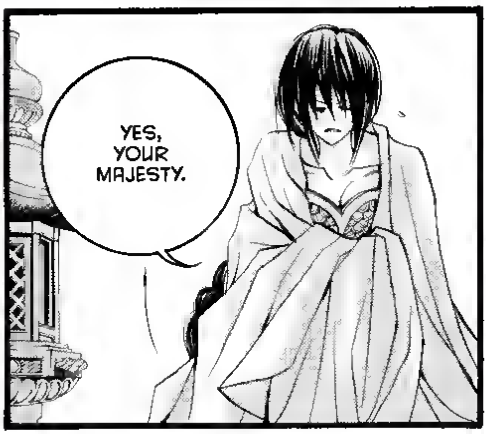
YOUR MAJESTY-- THE WATER GOD, HABAEK, IS REQUESTING A MEETING WITH YOU.
WELL, WELL... IT'S SO HARD TO LOOK AT YOUR FACE. IT'S BEEN A *WHILE* SINCE WE LAST SPOKE, HABAEK.

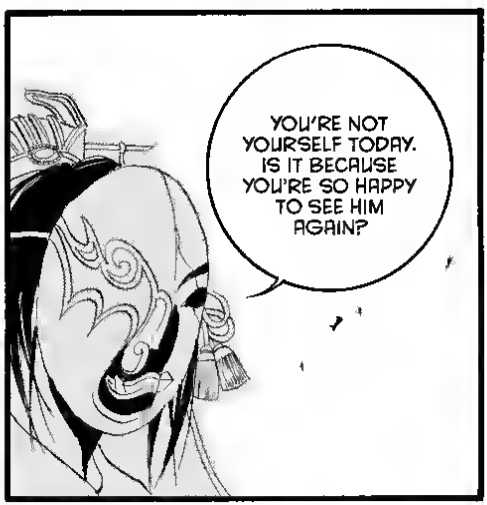
NO, YOUR MAJESTY.
TECHNICALLY, IT *HASN'T* BEEN THAT LONG, SINCE YOU CAME TO SUGUK IN NAKBIN'S FORM THE OTHER DAY.
DON'T YOU REMEMBER?
...!

THAT'S RUDE! HOW DARE YOU?! IN FRONT OF OUR MAJESTY!
HMPH
HEH HEH HEH!
BWAAH HA HA HA! HOW COULD I EVER EVEN THINK I HAD A CHANCE AT BEATING YOU?
THAT'S WHY I LIKE YOU, THOUGH.

I HOPE THAT YOU WILL TAKE YOUR TIME AND TRULY ENJOY YOURSELF HERE. IT WILL BE AN UNFORGETTABLE TRIP, I'M SURE.
ALSO, I FOUND A PRETTY LITTLE BIRD AROUND SUGUK. I WILL SHOW YOU SOON.
YOU MUST BE TIRED, SO GO REST. WE'LL HAVE SOME FUN LATER.
.....


CHEON-
HOO!
?!


YES,
YOUR
MAJESTY.


YOU'RE NOT
YOURSELF TODAY.
IS IT BECAUSE
YOU'RE SO HAPPY
TO SEE HIM
AGAIN?

TO SEE
THE ONE WHO
KILLED YOUR
FATHER AND
BROTHER?

YOU DON'T HAVE TO HURRY. IT HAS BEEN A WHILE SINCE WE ALL GOT TOGETHER. LET'S TRY TO HAVE SOME FUN. HEH HEH!
HEH HEH HEH HEH!
YOU KNOW, DON'T YOU? THAT YOUR "MASTER" ARRIVED HERE TODAY...?

ARE YOU WORRIED?
STOP PRETENDING YOU'RE THE PALACE'S ONLY LILY PAD.*
A PRETTY PERSON WITH NO CONVICTION? I'D RATHER STAND MUDDY IN THE ACTUAL POND.
HMPF! I HOPE YOU'LL DO YOUR JOB *RIGHT* THIS TIME.

*A LILY PAD IS ALWAYS NICE AND GREEN NO MATTER HOW FILTHY A POND'S WATER MAY BE

WHY ARE YOU SO AFRAID OF MAKING A MOVE AGAINST HIM? YOU DO HAVE SOMETHING AGAINST HIM, DON'T YOU?
DON'T YOU WORRY...
NOTHING'S CHANGED. HE'S STILL MY ENEMY.

IT'S DANGEROUS OUT HERE. COME WITH ME.
WHAT... WHAT IS YOUR NAME?
.....
I STILL REMEMBER...

NAKBIN...

"Aren't you afraid of me?"

I AM
HABAEK,
THE WATER
GOD
HA...
BAEK...

FATHER! LOOK AT THE SKY OVER THERE.
THERE'S A CRAZY CLOUD!

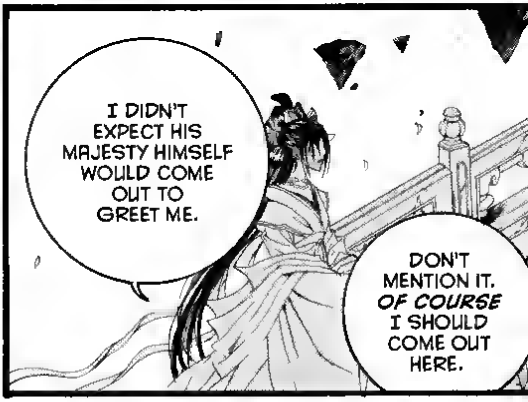
LET'S SEE... THAT'S A DRAGON CLOUD.
"DRAGON CLOUD"...?
YES. A GOD'S APPARENTLY PASSED NEARBY HERE RIDING HIS DRAGON, WHICH LEFT ITS ESSENCE IN THE MORTAL REALM.
SHF
OKAY-- WE'D BETTER HURRY. THERE'S A CHANCE THAT THOSE CLOUDS WILL OPEN UP AND RAIN.
BUT IT'S CLEAR AND SUNNY NOW!
THE DRAGON GOD CALLS THE RAIN.

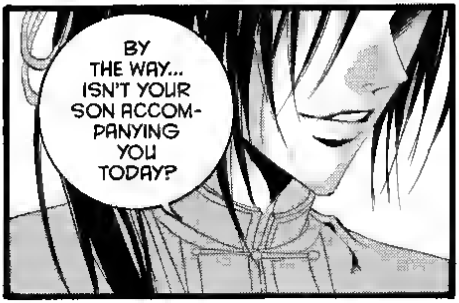
MOK-RANG! IF YOU DON'T HURRY, I'LL GO ON HOME WITHOUT YOU.
AHH! COMING, FATHER! WAIT FOR ME!

FSHAAAA
KA-PLISH
첨벙

THWUPP
WUPP

WELCOME, EMPRESS OF THE WEST!


I DIDN'T EXPECT HIS MAJESTY HIMSELF WOULD COME OUT TO GREET ME.
DON'T MENTION IT. OF COURSE I SHOULD COME OUT HERE.


BY THE WAY... ISN'T YOUR SON ACCOMPANYING YOU TODAY?

HE'S... IN THE HUMAN WORLD NOW.
NAKBIN...

I WAS WAITING FOR *HUYE*.
...ARE YOU HUMAN? BY THE WAY, WHY ARE YOU ALL ALONE IN THIS DANGEROUS FOREST?
HE SAID THAT I SHOULDN'T GO ANYWHERE... TO JUST WAIT FOR HIM...
HE'LL BE MAD IF I DON'T WAIT FOR HIM.

BY THE WAY...
...ARE YOU REALLY A GOD?
YES, I'M "REALLY A GOD"...
I DON'T BELIEVE YOU. PROVE IT. WHAT CAN YOU DO?

HWOOSH
I CAN TURN A LITTLE GIRL LIKE YOU INTO DUST-- IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE. THAT'S WHAT I CAN DO.
PERHAPS THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE... YOU COULD DO... BESIDES THAT... TO PROVE IT...?
IF THAT'S NOT TOO BORING?

HA HA! YOU'RE FUNNY. I THOUGHT YOU HUMANS WERE USUALLY *AFRAID* OF GODS.
AREN'T YOU AFRAID OF *ME?*

샤아
FSHAAA
끼기기긱
KRIIIK
휘이이잇
HWIPP

HWKK
!!
SPATCH
!!
PLOOSH
WHO'S THERE?!

GET
AWAY FROM
HER.

WHAT THE HELL'S GOING ON?!
SPOOSHAA
HOW DARE YOU DO THIS TO ME?! DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHO I AM?!
.....
IF YOU KNOW WHO I AM, THEN YOU'RE PROBABLY READY FOR WHAT YOU'RE GOING TO GET NOW--
NO! HUYE!

WHMMP

HMPF! YOU TWO KNOW EACH OTHER?
WELL, I WANT YOU TO APOLOGIZE FOR YOUR *RUDENESS.*
LET'S GO, NAKBIN.
ARE YOU *SCARED?* RUNNING AWAY?

GLARE
I THOUGHT YOU'D BE A LITTLE BRAVER THAN THAT.

YOU LOOK GOOD, WANG-MO.

IT HAS BEEN A WHILE, BUT YOU STILL LOOK EXACTLY THE SAME.
NO, RATHER, I BELIEVE YOU HAVE BECOME EVEN MORE BEAUTIFUL.
I APPRECIATE THE COMPLIMENT, BUT...
...I'D RATHER NOT HEAR THAT FROM *YOU*, SOMEONE WHO STEALS MY FORM.
HA HA! IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE WAY I LOOK NOW, WHAT DO YOU WANT TO SEE?

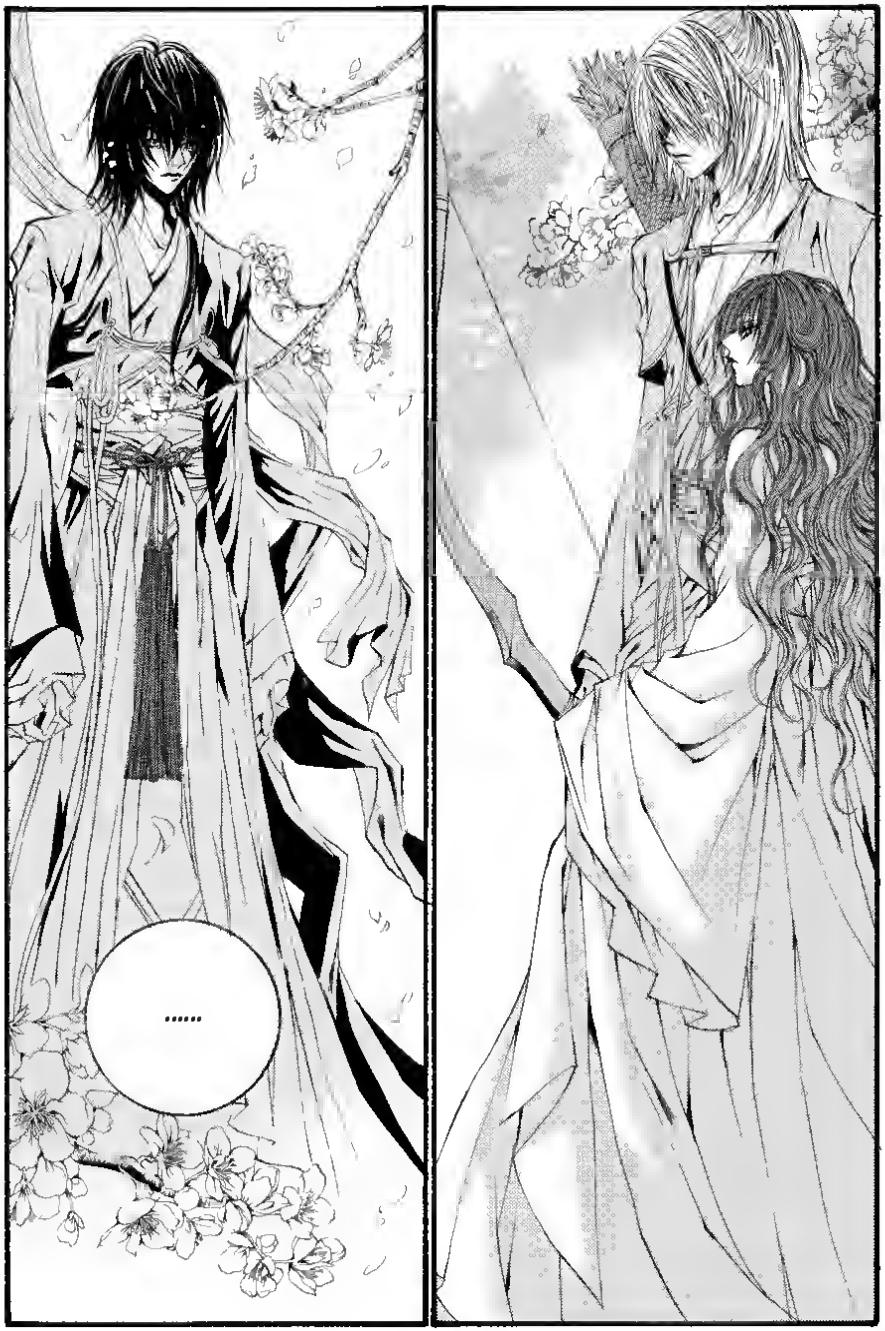
I'D LIKE TO TALK TO YOU IN YOUR TRUE FORM, PLEASE.

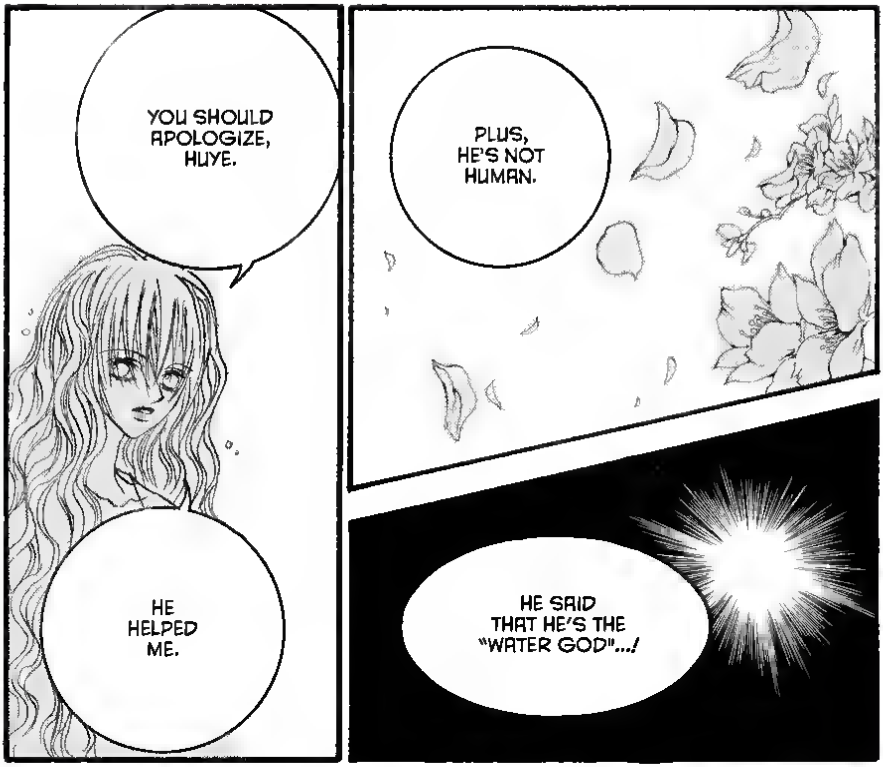
I DIDN'T COME ALL THE WAY HERE TO JOKE AROUND WITH YOU.
YOU ASKED FOR ME BECAUSE YOU HAVE SOMETHING *IMPORTANT* TO TALK ABOUT, DON'T YOU?
SO TALK-- OR I'M LEAVING.
OKAY... IF THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT...
ZZWNNN

VVNNNN
IS THIS BETTER?

LET'S GET TO THE POINT. I'D LIKE TO ASK YOU A FAVOR.

DELIVER HABAEK TO ME, PLEASE.




YOU SHOULD APOLOGIZE, HUYE.
HE HELPED ME.
PLUS, HE'S NOT HUMAN.
HE SAID THAT HE'S THE "WATER GOD"...!

I APOLOGIZE FOR WHAT I DID EARLIER.
I WAS A LITTLE TRIGGER HAPPY, SINCE ATTACKS BY ABOMINATIONS ON HUMANS HAVE INCREASED RECENTLY.
PLEASE FORGIVE MY RUDENESS.
PFF.
I'M NOT SURE IF YOU REALLY MEAN IT OR NOT, BUT I JUST DON'T WANT TO TALK TO YOU ANY LONGER.
FINE, I FORGIVE YOU.

THEN WE'RE LEAVING.
FAREWELL, HABAEK...
HABAEK!
.....

타타타
TMP TMP TMP
WHAT'S UP?
WERE YOU WONDERING IF I WAS AFRAID OF YOU EARLIER?
I WASN'T.
A *HANDSOME* GOD LIKE YOU CAN'T BE A BAD GOD.

HEH HEH!
YOU WANT TO KNOW WHAT ELSE I CAN DO?
SPISHAAA
THIS WILL ESCORT AND PROTECT YOU UNTIL YOU'RE OUT OF THE FOREST.

휘이이이이

HWOOOSH

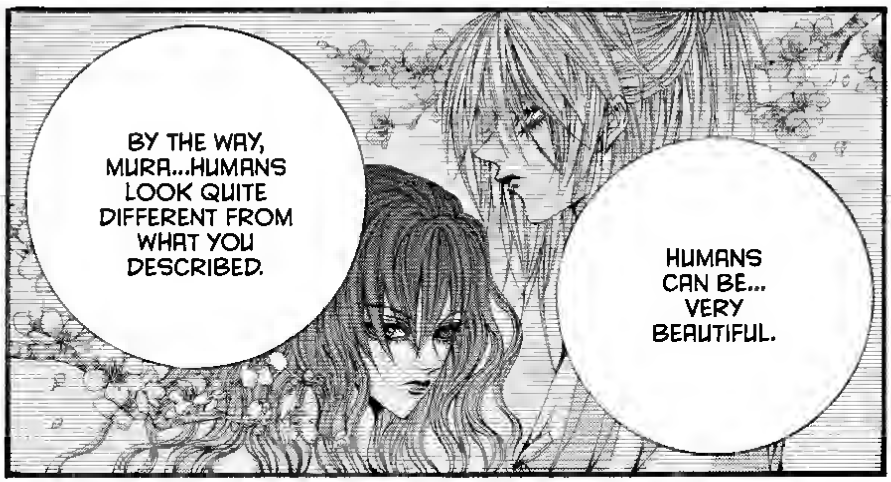
펄럭

THWUPP WUPP

콰아아아
KOOOM
HABAEK!
MURA.

WELCOME BACK!
HOW WAS IT? DID YOU HAVE FUN ON YOUR TRIP?
YES, IT WAS NICE.
IT MUST HAVE BEEN *GORGEOUS*-- BECAUSE IT IS, AFTER ALL, A PALACE.
I DIDN'T GO TO THE PALACE.
WHAT? YOU SAID--

I HAD FUN IN THE *HUMAN WORLD*, NOT AT THE PALACE.
I MET A HUMAN FOR THE FIRST TIME. IT WAS NEAR THE FOREST THAT SEPARATES THE GODS' REALM FROM THE HUMAN WORLD.


BY THE WAY, MURA...HUMANS LOOK QUITE DIFFERENT FROM WHAT YOU DESCRIBED.
HUMANS CAN BE... VERY BEAUTIFUL.

R-REALLY? THAT'S NOT POSSIBLE...

ANYWAY, YOU'D BETTER NOT GET TOO CLOSE TO HUMANS.
THEY'RE ABOMINATIONS-- WORTHLESS CREATURES WHO NEVER ADMIT THEIR MISTAKES AND NEVER TAKE RESPONSIBILITY. THEY ALWAYS BLAME THEIR FATE ON THE DICE TOSSING OF GODS.

THEY DON'T SEEM LIKE THAT--
ARE YOU SAYING THAT I'M LYING?
NO... YOU MUST BE RIGHT. YOU MUST KNOW HUMANS BETTER THAN ME.
PLEASE, THEN-- STOP GOING TO THE HUMAN WORLD, HABAEK.
NO.
WHUH... WHY?!

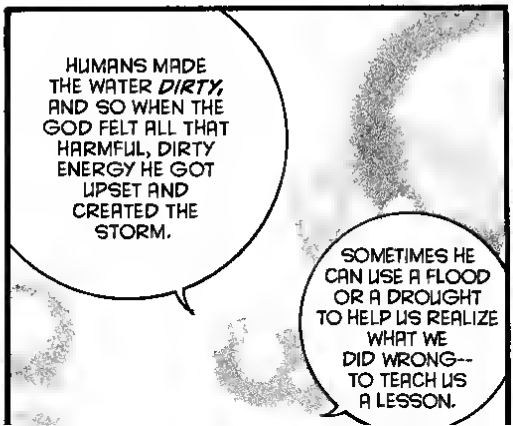
I FOUND SOMETHING FORBIDDEN THAT I WANT.

THE STORM SANK A SHIP LAST NIGHT.
WHO KNEW THAT THE CLEAR, SUNNY SKY WOULD TURN INTO SUCH A *TEMPEST* OUT OF THE BLUE? THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO WHEN SOMETHING LIKE THAT HAPPENS. ISN'T IT STRANGE, THOUGH?
ALL THE OTHER SHIPS CAME BACK WITHOUT A SCRATCH...

TSK TSK TSK! I TOLD YOU-- THIS IS ALL BECAUSE WE'VE UPSET THE WATER GOD. YOUNG FOLKS THESE DAYS HAVE NO CLUE HOW SCARY THE GODS CAN BE.
STOP TALKING THAT CRAP, OLD MAN! WHO CARES ABOUT THOSE BORING OLD STORIES?
JUST YOU WAIT AND SEE! ONE OF THESE DAYS, SOMETHING *WORSE* WILL HAPPEN.
.....

FATHER, IS IT TRUE WHAT THAT OLD MAN SAID TODAY?
DID THE WATER GOD BLOW THE SHIP TO PIECES?
AREN'T GODS SUPPOSED TO PROTECT PEOPLE? WHY WOULD THE WATER GOD HURT US?

MOK-RANG, THINGS HAPPEN WHEN PEOPLE *UPSET* THE GODS.


HUMANS MADE THE WATER *DIRTY*, AND SO WHEN THE GOD FELT ALL THAT HARMFUL, DIRTY ENERGY HE GOT UPSET AND CREATED THE STORM.
SOMETIMES HE CAN USE A FLOOD OR A DROUGHT TO HELP US REALIZE WHAT WE DID WRONG-- TO TEACH US A LESSON.

PEOPLE TEND TO FORGET ABOUT HOW THEY CAN UPSET THE GODS.
THAT'S HOW SOME DISASTERS HAPPEN.

GODS ARE BASICALLY GENEROUS, BUT REMEMBER THAT THEY CAN BECOME SCARY WHEN THEY GET MAD.
IF HUMANS WEREN'T AFRAID OF GODS AND NATURE, THEN WE COULD FACE A HUGE CATASTROPHE.
FOR US FISHERMEN, THE OCEAN...
STROKE
"...IS OUR LIFE..."
"...AND IS LIFE GIVING..."

WHAT WAS THE FIRST THING THAT EVER EXISTED?
WHAT DOES THE OLDEST THING LOOK LIKE?

GOOD MORNING, MOK-RANG!
I HAD A WEIRD DREAM.
DID YOU? WHAT WAS THE DREAM ABOUT?
UMM... IT WAS...
I CAN'T REMEMBER.

MAYBE YOU'LL REMEMBER IT LATER. I HAVE TO GO TO WORK NOW.
SURE... HAVE A GREAT DAY, FATHER!
I HAVE A FEELING THAT IT WAS A HAPPY DREAM.
I WISH THAT I COULD HAVE THAT DREAM AGAIN.

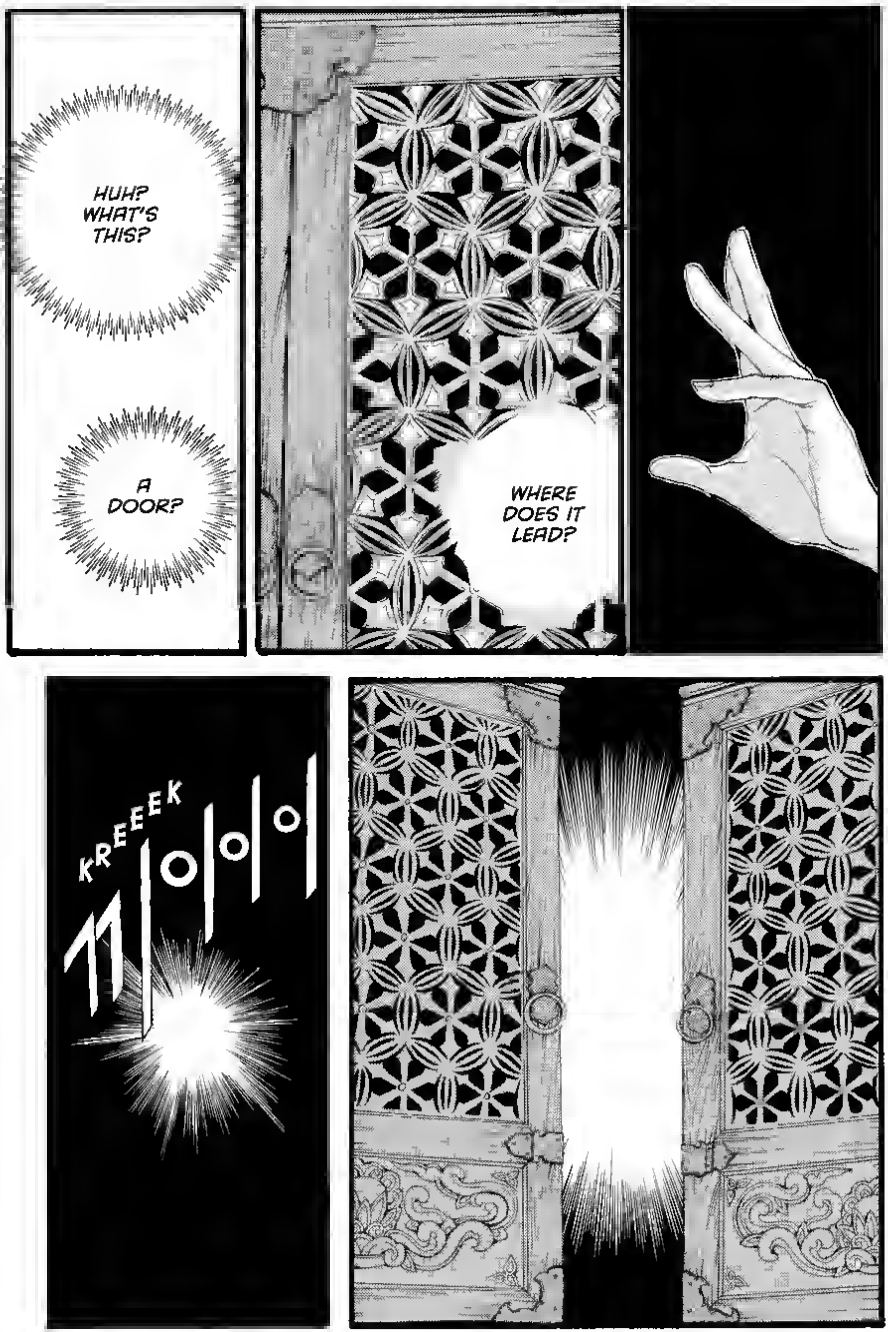
...RANG...
MOK-RANG!
UMM...
FWIPP
FATHER?
DON'T MOVE! STAY STILL!
?

HOW ON EARTH DID YOU GET WAY UP THERE?
DON'T MOVE! STAY RIGHT THERE! I'LL GET YOU DOWN SOON!!
웅성 MURMUR
MURMUR 웅성
.....

HOW DID YOU GET UP THERE? IT'S NOT EVEN FUNNY. DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW SHOCKED EVERYBODY WAS BECAUSE OF YOU?
I'M SORRY, BUT I DON'T REMEMBER ANYTHING.
PHEW!
ANYWAY... YOU'RE SAFE. YOU'RE FINE.
BUT THIS SHOULD NEVER, EVER HAPPEN AGAIN. DO YOU UNDERSTAND?
YES, I DO.
I'M SORRY.

SERIOUSLY, I DON'T REMEMBER ANYTHING.
I JUST REMEMBER FATHER LEAVING FOR WORK...
HONEY, REGARDING MOK-RANG...
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? I SCOLDED HER A LOT, SO SHE WON'T DO ANYTHING LIKE THAT AGAIN.
I'M NOT JUST TALKING ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED TODAY. SHE'S ALSO BEEN FINDING SO MANY THINGS THAT I THOUGHT I'D LOST.
AT FIRST, I THOUGHT SHE HID THEM FROM ME SOMEWHERE HERSELF...BUT, NOW...I'M SCARED OF HER...
SHE'S BEEN ACTING SO *ODD* LATELY.

I'M IN THE DREAM AGAIN!
THIS IS THE SAME DREAM THAT I HAD LAST NIGHT!


HUH? WHAT'S THIS?
A DOOR?
WHERE DOES IT LEAD?
KREEEEK
끼이이이이

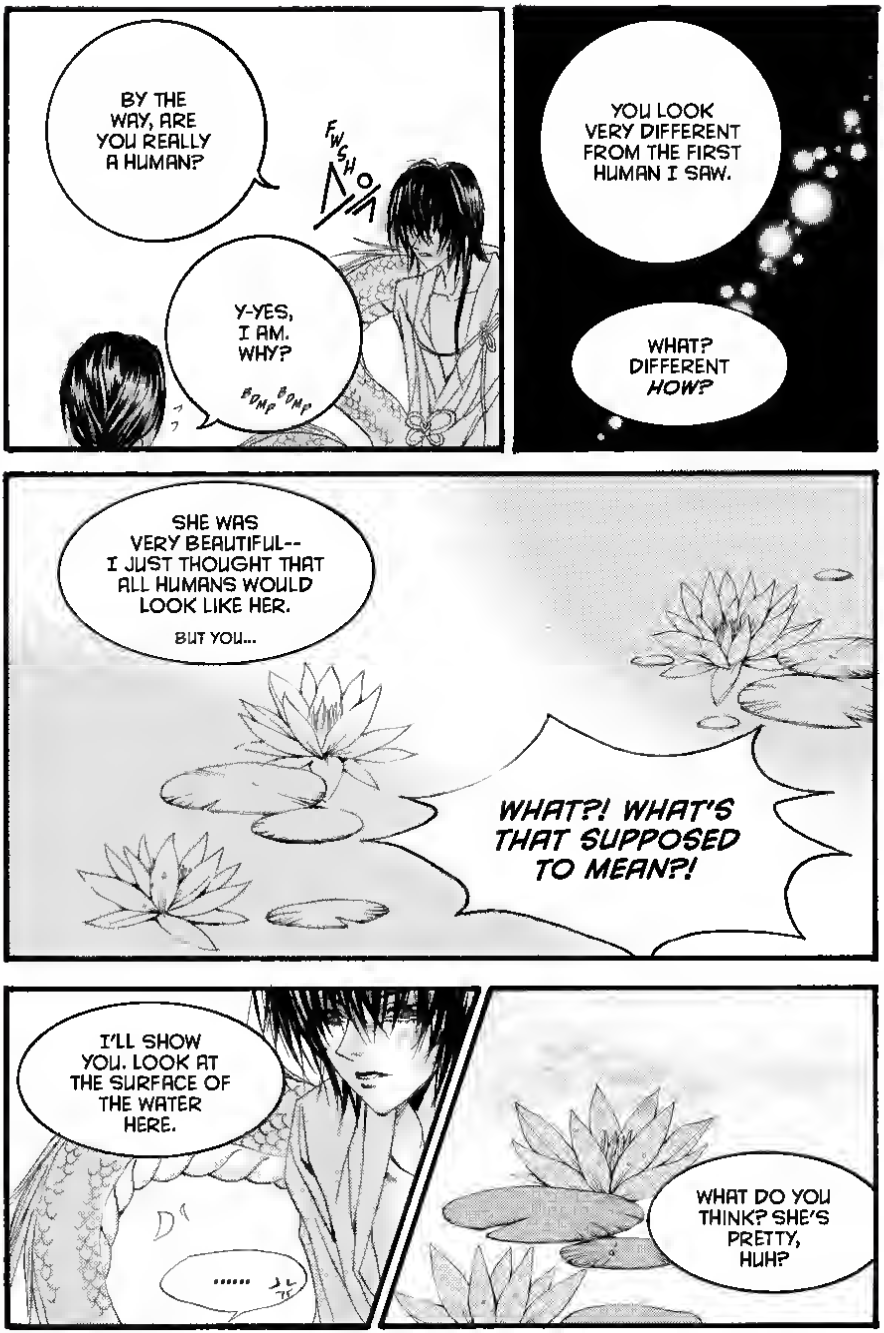
IT'S YOU AGAIN.
WHO IS IT?
I THOUGHT IT WAS STRANGE-- HOW COULD A HUMAN BEING GET IN HERE?
YOU CAME HERE YESTERDAY, TOO. DON'T YOU REMEMBER?

.....
AH, I GOT IT.

YOU'RE A
SHAMAN.
(SHAMAN: A HUMAN WHO KNOWS MYSTICAL SECRETS AND CAN CONNECT THE PHYSICAL WORLD AND THE GODS' REALM.)
?

"SHAMAN"...?
RIGHT.
THEN... ARE YOU A SHAMAN, TOO?
HA HA!
YOU REALLY DON'T KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING, DO YOU?

I AM THE WATER GOD.
SINCE YOU CAN TRAVEL HERE TO MEET ME, YOU SEEM TO BE A SHAMAN ATTUNED TO WATER.
YOU MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO REMEMBER EVERYTHING ONCE YOU WAKE UP, BUT YOUR POWERS WILL ONLY GROW STRONGER AND STRONGER.
?!


BY THE WAY, ARE YOU REALLY A HUMAN?
FWSH
Y-YES, I AM. WHY?
BOMP BOMP
YOU LOOK VERY DIFFERENT FROM THE FIRST HUMAN I SAW.
WHAT? DIFFERENT HOW?
SHE WAS VERY BEAUTIFUL-- I JUST THOUGHT THAT ALL HUMANS WOULD LOOK LIKE HER.
BUT YOU...
WHAT?! WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?!
I'LL SHOW YOU. LOOK AT THE SURFACE OF THE WATER HERE.
.....
WHAT DO YOU THINK? SHE'S PRETTY, HUH?

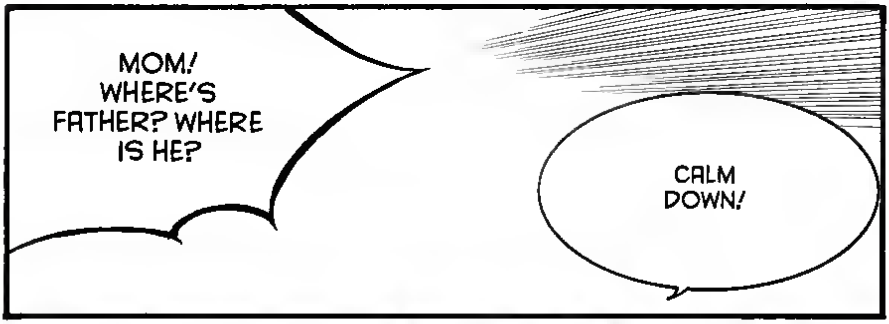
SHE'S GOING TO BE MY BRIDE.
WELL, OF COURSE SHE IS. LOOK AT HOW BEAUTIFUL SHE IS.
SHE DOESN'T LOOK LIKE AN ORDINARY HUMAN...
OKAY, ANYWAY, I WANT TO GIVE YOU A PRESENT, SINCE YOU MADE IT ALL THE WAY HERE.

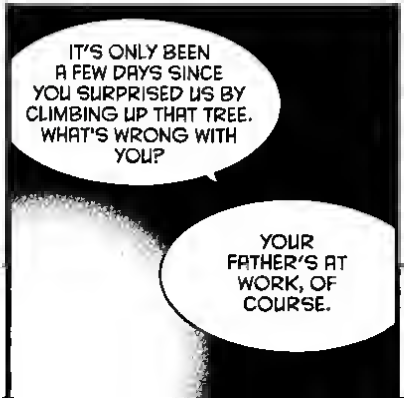
I WILL TELL YOU SOMETHING GOOD.
.....

THIS TIME-- DON'T FORGET.

벌떡
WOOSH

하아 하아
HAFF! HAFF!


MOM! WHERE'S FATHER? WHERE IS HE?
CALM DOWN!


IT'S ONLY BEEN A FEW DAYS SINCE YOU SURPRISED US BY CLIMBING UP THAT TREE. WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?
YOUR FATHER'S AT WORK, OF COURSE.

OH, NO!

NO!
HE SHOULDN'T
BE OUT.
THE STORM'S
COMING.

ALL SEEMS GOOD.
ALTHOUGH THE ROAD IN THE SKY IS DARK...
...SOMETHING GOOD WILL HAPPEN.
GO TO THE *WEST.* THEN YOU WILL GET WHAT YOU WANT.
OH, THANK YOU SO MUCH, *MOK-RANG-NIM!*
DID YOU HEAR THE RUMOR...?
LIM'S DAUGHTER IS AMAZING AT FORESEEING THINGS.
DOES SHE CURE ANY DISEASES? IS THAT REALLY TRUE?
THAT'S ONLY A PART OF IT. SHE'S BEEN PREDICTING WHEN IT'S GOING TO RAIN OR SHINE!
YOU KNOW, SHE SAVED OUR TOWN FROM A STORM EIGHT YEARS AGO.
SPOOSHAAA

THE VILLAGE HAS BEEN SO FRUITFUL, AND IT'S ALL THANKS TO MOK-RANG-NIM!
IT'S SAID THAT A LONG TIME AGO, EVERYBODY COULD FREELY TRAVEL UP TO THE SKY USING THE SKY LADDER.
BUT NOW, THE ROAD TO THE SKY HAS BEEN BLOCKED. ONLY A FEW CHOSEN ONES CAN CLIMB INTO THE HEAVENS.

"OKAY, ANYWAY, I WANT TO GIVE YOU A PRESENT, SINCE YOU MADE IT ALL THE WAY HERE. I WILL TELL YOU SOMETHING GOOD.
"THERE'S A STORM COMING TOMORROW. A LOT OF PEOPLE WILL DIE."

GOOD MORNING, MOK-RANG-NIM.
YOU WERE SLEEPING SO SOUNDLY! I DIDN'T WAKE YOU UP.
SINCE YOU'VE BEEN WORKING SO HARD LATELY, I THINK YOU SHOULD TAKE A DAY OFF.
I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM SINCE THEN.
HE CLAIMED HE WAS THE WATER GOD...COME TO THINK OF IT, I DIDN'T EVEN ASK HIS NAME.
WILL I EVER SEE HIM AGAIN?

MOK-RANG-NIM?
IT'S NOTHING.
IT'S GOING TO RAIN TODAY.
PLEASE, GO TELL THE PEOPLE.
WE'RE GOING TO HAVE A GOOD HARVEST THIS YEAR, SINCE I SAW A SCHOOL OF MOON-YO FISH IN MY DREAMS.
PLIP
PLOP PLIP
SPOOSHAAA

I'D LIKE TO MEET HIM ONE MORE TIME...
콰아 KOOOM
WELCOME TO THE PALACE, WANG-MO-NIM. HABAEK-NIM IS IN THE GARDEN NOW.
IS HE? I WILL GO SEE HIM ALONE. WAIT FOR ME HERE.
바스락 FWSH
.....
푸드득 WHUP WHUPPA

MOTHER.
MU...
DID I MAKE THE RIGHT CHOICE?
"I'D LIKE TO ASK YOU A FAVOR."

DELIVER HABAEK TO ME, PLEASE.
?!
DELIVER... HABAEK... I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.

쾅
KRANG
FIRST--
--THE BOY IS NOT *MINE* TO GIVE, SO THAT'S OUT OF MY HANDS.
SECOND-- THE BOY IS NOT A *THING*. NOBODY CAN POSSESS HIM.
AND *THIRD*--
--I'M NOT SURE WHAT YOU'RE PLOTTING AND SCHEMING HERE, BUT LET ME MAKE ONE THING CLEAR...
...NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, I'M GOING TO *PROTECT* THE BOY...

"...EVEN IF IT COSTS ME MY OWN LIFE."
MOTHER?
IS EVERY-THING OKAY...?
DID I MAKE THE RIGHT CHOICE...?
I HOPE THAT THIS BOY CAN LIVE A HAPPY LIFE...

IS HABAEK IN THIS ROOM?
WANG-MO'S HERE?
AHH... YES. HE'S WITH WANG-MO-NIM.
THAT'S GOOD. I WAS GOING TO GIVE HER SOME *MOO-WOO HERB,** SINCE SHE SEEMED TO BE SO TROUBLED LATELY.

*MOO-WOO HERB: A MAGIC HERB THAT GETS RID OF ALL WORRIES

I'M THINKING OF VISITING THE HUMAN WORLD.
THE HUMAN WORLD...? WHAT'S THE OCCASION?
I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR THE GIRL TO GROW UP.
...?

NOW IT'S TIME TO GO WELCOME MY BRIDE.
WHMMP

!!
MOK-RANG-NIM IS BACK.
탁 TOK 탁 TOK 탁 TOK
REALLY? WHERE IS SHE?
WOW! 와아
MOK-RANG-NIM!
WELCOME BACK. HOW WAS YOUR TRIP?

MOK-RANG-NIM, WHAT WILL THE FORTUNES BRING US THIS YEAR?
ARE WE GOING TO HAVE A DROUGHT AGAIN THIS YEAR?
MOK-RANG-NIM, MY BABY'S HAD A FEVER SINCE LAST NIGHT--
HEY, PEOPLE! SHE JUST ARRIVED. HOW RUDE!
MOK-RANG-NIM, PLEASE FORGIVE THEM.
IT'S OKAY. I'M NOT THAT TIRED.
NO, NO. UNPACK YOUR STUFF AND GET SOME REST.
?!
=

HUYE!!
NAKBIN...

WHO ARE THEY?
EH?
AH, THEY'RE BROTHER AND SISTER!
BROTHER AND SISTER...?
ACCORDING TO THE RUMORS, THEIR FATHER WASN'T HUMAN...

I'M NOT SURE IF THAT'S TRUE OR NOT, BUT HIS ARCHERY SKILLS ARE BEYOND THOSE OF A HUMAN.
HE'S BEEN KILLING THE ABOMINATIONS FOR US, SO EVERYONE FEELS SAFE IN THE FOREST NOW.
THE PEOPLE KNOW HIM AS AN "ARCHER OF THE GODS"...

AND JUST LOOK AT THEIR *FACES*... THEY REALLY DON'T LOOK HUMAN.
WHY DO YOU ASK ABOUT THEM?
NOTHING. NEVER MIND...
ISN'T SHE PRETTY?
SHE'S GOING TO BE MY BRIDE.

HRRGH...
OOH... HNN...
MOK-RANG-NIM? ARE YOU OKAY? MOK-RANG-NIM?!
MOK-RANG-NIM!
...?!
DID YOU HAVE A NIGHTMARE?
I RECEIVED A REVELATION.
IT'S STILL THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT.
A REVELATION...

"KILL THE WOMAN"...

쿠르
KOOM
KOOOOM
쿠르르
HOOOF!
WHAT A SURPRISE
NO--
I SHOULD SAY THAT IT'S AN *HONOR* THAT YOU CAME ALL THE WAY HERE.

DEAR *MURA* FROM CHEONG-YO MOUNTAIN. THE WORLD HAS NEVER HAD--
KRAKOOM

SORRY, BUT I DON'T HAVE TIME TO LISTEN TO YOUR USELESS JOKES.
I BROUGHT SOME *GOOD NEWS* FOR YOU, BUT IF YOU DON'T WANT TO HEAR IT, I'LL JUST LEAVE.
THAT SOUNDS VERY TEMPTING, BUT I DON'T UNDERSTAND. WERE YOU GOING TO GIVE ME THE INFORMATION FOR FREE?
TOKK
TOKK
TOKK
HWWSH
WHAT DO YOU WANT, MURA?

WHAT DOES IT MATTER, AS LONG AS WE BOTH GET WHAT WE WANT?
AND WHY DO YOU THINK I'LL BE INTERESTED IN WHATEVER IT IS YOU HAVE?

EVERYBODY KNOWS THAT SEO WANG-MO TURNED DOWN A REQUEST FROM YOU... ALTHOUGH NOBODY KNOWS EXACTLY WHAT THAT REQUEST WAS.
IT'S SAID THAT SWEET LITTLE WANG-MO-NIM WAS EXTREMELY ANGRY--AND THERE'S ONLY ONE STORY IN THE WORLD THAT CAN MAKE WANG-MO LOSE HER MIND.
움찔
FLINCH
A STORY ABOUT HABAEK--
AM I WRONG?

I WILL LISTEN TO YOUR OFFER.
KTOK TOK
FINE.
LET'S MAKE A DEAL--
THIS IS THE STORY OF HABAEK'S BRIDE...
--MURA, "ENCHANTRESS" OF CHEONG-YO MOUNTAIN.

HABAEK YEARNS TO MAKE A HUMAN GIRL HIS BRIDE.
I'M SURE THAT SHE IS GOING TO BE HABAEK'S WEAKNESS.
AND I KNOW WHO THE GIRL IS.
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO MADE ME LIKE THIS. IT'S ALL BECAUSE OF YOU, HABAEK!

SO-- ARE YOU SAYING THAT WE SHOULD KILL SOMEONE FOR SOMETHING THAT HASN'T EVEN HAPPENED YET?
웅성 MURMUR
웅성 MURMUR
웅성 MURMUR
EVEN THOUGH IT'S A DIVINE REVELATION, KILLING AN INNOCENT PERSON IS A BIT--
THERE'S A REASON FOR EVERY SACRIFICE!
MAYBE MOK-RANG-NIM MADE A MISTAKE.
MOK-RANG-NIM CAN'T ALWAYS BE PERFECT, CAN SHE...?
.....
ARE YOU SAYING THAT YOU DON'T TRUST MOK-RANG-NIM?
웅성 MURMUR
SILENCE! BE QUIET, EVERYONE!
웅성 MURMUR
웅성 MURMUR

STOP YOUR INDECENT PRATTLING, YOU COMMONERS! NOT IN FRONT OF MOK-RANG-NIM!
LET'S LISTEN TO WHAT MOK-RANG-NIM SAYS--AND THEN DECIDE.
MURMUR
MOK-RANG-NIM, WHAT DID YOU SEE?
MANY, MANY PEOPLE WERE DYING... I WAS WATCHING A CATACLYSM UNFOLD...
I SAW A STORM... A TSUNAMI... AND OUR VILLAGE SINKING INTO THE WATER.

I REALIZE THAT EVERY LIFE IS PRECIOUS-- BUT A SACRIFICE CANNOT BE HELPED WHEN IT COMES TO THE GOOD OF THE WHOLE.
WE HAVE TO BEAR SMALL SACRIFICES FOR THE GREATER GOOD!

YES...
THIS IS ONLY A VERY SMALL SACRIFICE
비틀
STUMBLE
PLIP
투드
PLIP
하아
HFF!
하아
HFF!
콰당..
FWMMP

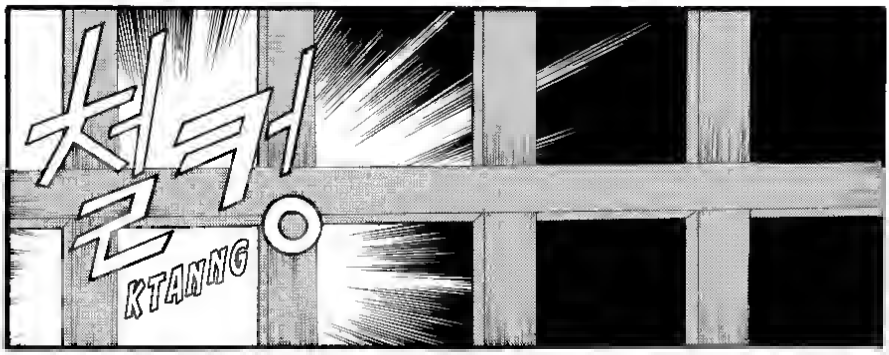
HUYE?!
덜커!
BTAMM
OUT HUNTING ABOMINATIONS AGAIN?
STOP DOING THAT. I'VE ASKED YOU SO MANY TIMES... STOP DOING THEM FAVORS JUST BECAUSE THEY ASK YOU.
I'M FINE. I'M DOING THIS BECAUSE I LIKE IT.

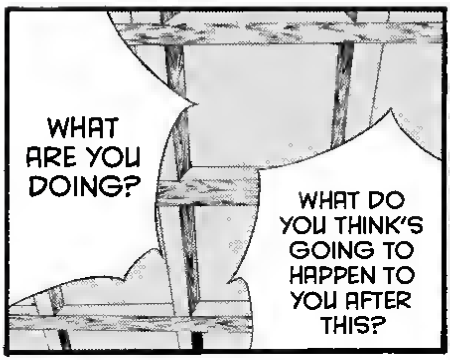
I DON'T LIKE THOSE PEOPLE.
THEY BEG AND ACT NICE WHEN THEY ASK FOR THINGS-- AND THEN THEY'RE ALWAYS ARROGANT AND THANKLESS AFTER THEIR BIDDING IS DONE.
ARE THOSE PEOPLE MORE IMPORTANT THAN ME?

YOU'RE DIFFERENT FROM ME...
GO BACK TO WHERE YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE, HUYE.
YOU DON'T BELONG HERE.

HUYE-- ARE YOU THERE?
I HEARD THAT AN ABOMINATION APPEARED AND KILLED A BUNCH OF PEOPLE IN THE NEXT TOWN OVER.
I CAME TO ASK YOU A FAVOR.
MY SISTER MOVED THERE WHEN SHE GOT MARRIED, AND I'M SO WORRIED ABOUT HER. HOWEVER, I'M SCARED TO GO VISIT HER ALONE.
WHAT... IS IT?

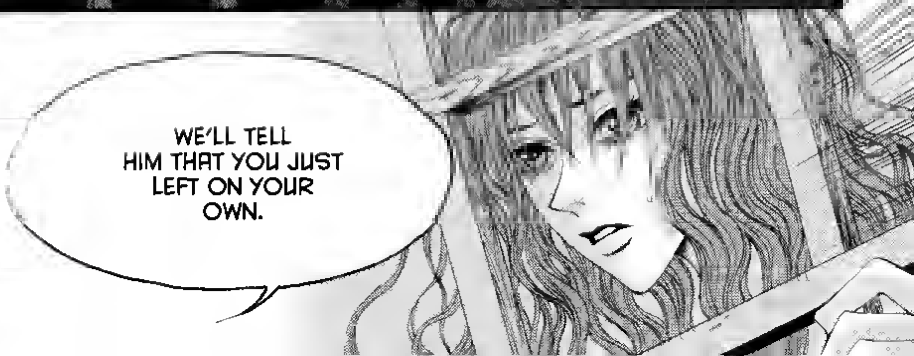
I'M SO SORRY THAT I'VE BEEN ASKING FOR YOUR HELP SO MUCH-- BUT CAN YOU PLEASE COME TO THE NEIGHBORING TOWN WITH ME?
I KNOW THAT I SHOULDN'T BE ASKING SUCH A THING, BUT PLEASE HELP ME ONE MORE TIME. THIS WILL REALLY BE MY LAST REQUEST.
DON'T GO, HUYE. PLEASE...?
DON'T WORRY. IT WON'T TAKE LONG.
I'LL BE BACK IN NO TIME.

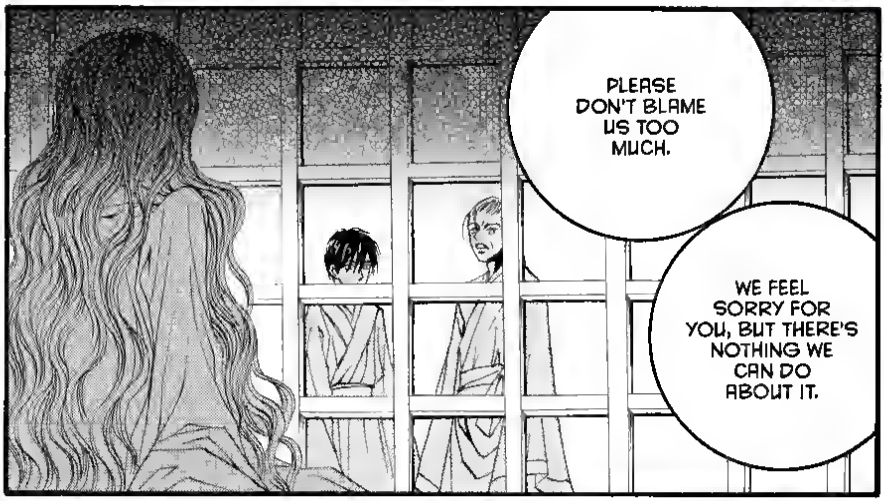

KTANNG

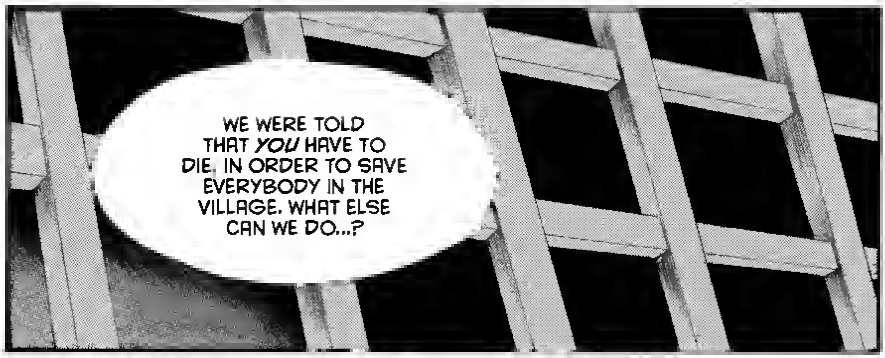

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
WHAT DO YOU THINK'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO YOU AFTER THIS?

BE QUIET! DON'T BE A FOOL!

WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS TO ME? WHEN HUYE FINDS OUT, YOU'RE *DEAD!*


WE'LL TELL HIM THAT YOU JUST LEFT ON YOUR OWN.


PLEASE DON'T BLAME US TOO MUCH.
WE FEEL SORRY FOR YOU, BUT THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO ABOUT IT.


WE WERE TOLD THAT *YOU* HAVE TO DIE. IN ORDER TO SAVE EVERYBODY IN THE VILLAGE. WHAT ELSE CAN WE DO...?

THAT'S ABSURD! WHO SAID SUCH A THING?

MOK-
RANG-NIM
RECEIVED A
REVELATION
FROM HABAEK,
THE WATER
GOD.

HABAEK?!

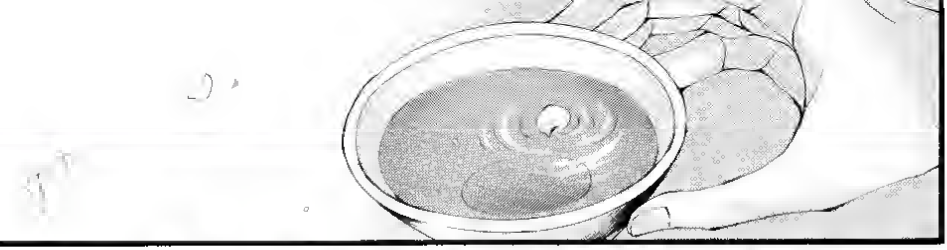
HABAEK?

THE WATER GOD IS TRYING TO KILL ME?
WHY...?

HUYE, HELP ME!!
KLOP
KLOP

OH, NO! IT COLLAPSED IN THE STORM A FEW DAYS AGO.
IT'S GOING TO TAKE MORE TIME IF WE TAKE A DETOUR...
WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

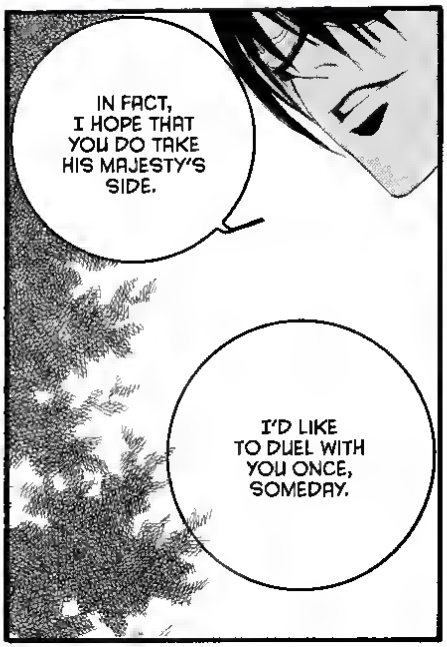
DON'T GO, HUYE. PLEASE ...?
휘익
HWSH
HRRFF!
HUYE...?
WHAT? WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
HUYE?!



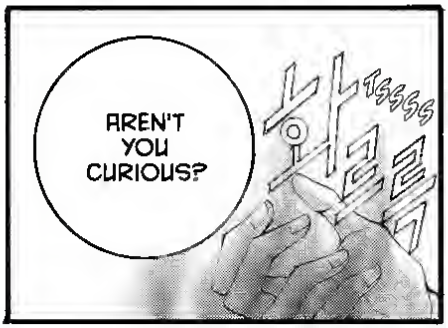
HEY, HABAEK.
ARE YOU GOING TO PLAY AROUND HERE ALL DAY?
OUR REALM IS ABOUT TO BE TORN APART IN A FIGHT BETWEEN THE EMPEROR AND SHINNONG, THE HARVEST GOD. WHICH SIDE ARE YOU ON?
I'M NOT ON ANYBODY'S SIDE.
WELL... THE OTHERS WON'T THINK THAT WAY.
THEY THINK THAT WHOEVER HAS THE POWER OF THE WATER GOD WILL WIN.
EVERYBODY'S KEEPING THEIR EYES ON YOU AND WHICH SIDE YOU'RE GONNA PICK.
BUT THE PERSON AT THE CENTER OF THIS MESS IS HANGING TIGHT, LYING LOW, AND MESSING AROUND--

I'M NOT INTERESTED IN SUCH THINGS.
REGARDLESS OF YOUR INTEREST, YOU ARE GOING TO BE IN THE MIDDLE OF THIS STORM.
AND...IT'S IMPORTANT TO ME TO KNOW WHO YOU'RE GOING TO STAND BY.

BECAUSE IF YOU CHOOSE THE EMPEROR'S SIDE, YOU'LL HAVE TO FIGHT AGAINST ME.
SHUFF


IN FACT, I HOPE THAT YOU DO TAKE HIS MAJESTY'S SIDE.
I'D LIKE TO DUEL WITH YOU ONCE, SOMEDAY.

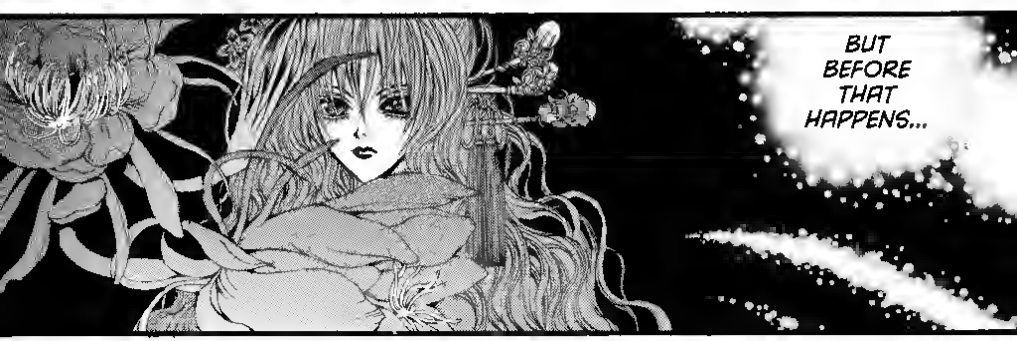
FIRE AND WATER ARE LIKE THAT, RIGHT?
FWOOSH

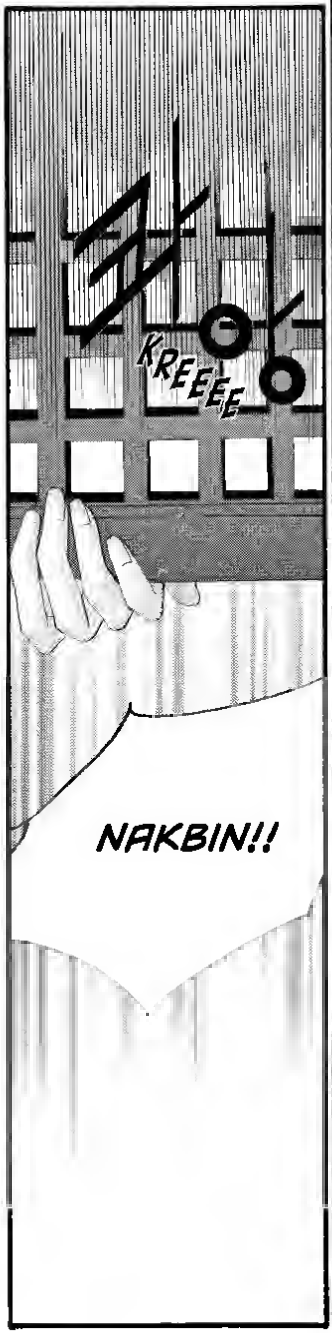

AREN'T YOU CURIOUS?
TSSSS

WHO'S STRONGER?

WHEN THE GODS FIGHT, WE IMPACT THE HUMAN WORLD, TOO.

IT DOESN'T MATTER IF WE LIKE IT OR NOT. WE DO THE MOST DAMAGE...AND THEY'RE THE WEAKEST...




KREEEE
NAKBIN!!

.....

YOU WERE
TOO LATE.

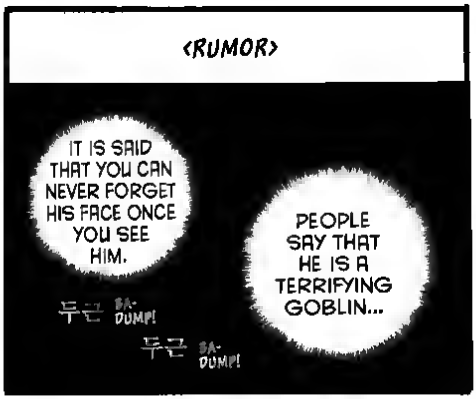
SHE'S NOT HERE.
I SAW HER DRAGGED AWAY BY THE PEOPLE IN TOWN.
GRAB
NOW, NOW...I UNDERSTAND THAT YOU'RE UPSET AFTER BEING BETRAYED BY THE VERY PEOPLE YOU TRUSTED, BUT NOTHING WILL CHANGE IF YOU TAKE IT OUT ON ME...
...AND, ACTUALLY, THIS IS ALL *YOUR* FAULT, ISN'T IT?

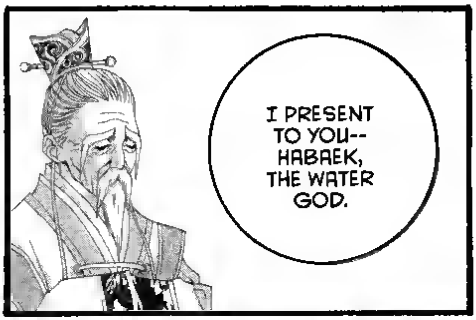
YOU DIDN'T LISTEN TO HER, EVEN THOUGH SHE BEGGED YOU.
"I DON'T LIKE THOSE PEOPLE."
"DON'T GO, HUYE. PLEASE...?"
NAKBIN!!

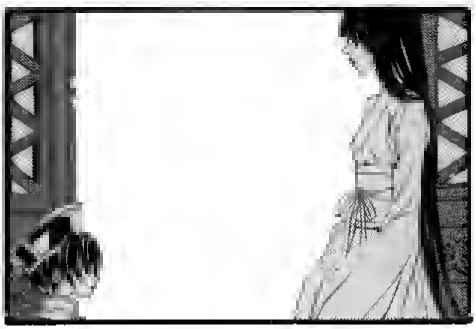
WOULD YOU LIKE ME TO HELP, HUYE?
WHAT YOU WANT THE *MOST* RIGHT NOW WOULD BE A PIECE OF CAKE FOR ME...
...AND ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS ASK...

YES... PLEASE HELP ME, FATHER!

BONUS STRIPS!!
BRIDE OF THE PANDA


<RUMOR>
IT IS SAID THAT YOU CAN NEVER FORGET HIS FACE ONCE YOU SEE HIM.
두근 BA-DUMP!
PEOPLE SAY THAT HE IS A TERRIFYING GOBLIN...
두근 BA-DUMP!


I PRESENT TO YOU-- HABAEK, THE WATER GOD.

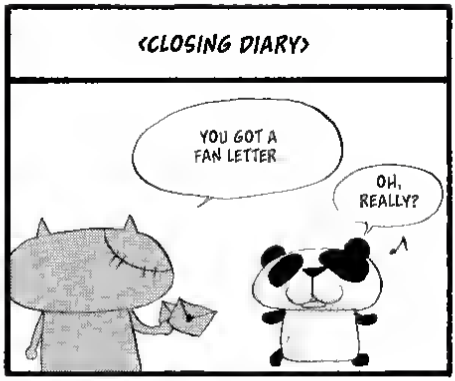


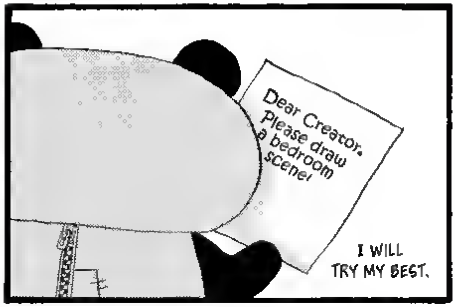
SOMETHING IS DIFFERENT!!
우걱 CHEW! 우걱 CHEW!

<HIS BIG DAY>
1.
MOVING.
2.
EATING.
3.
SLEEPING.
ZZZ!
ZZZ!
HE IS ONE LAZY A66!!
WHAT THE HECK ?!
<NIGHT>
VVNNNN!
SNIFF/ MOM...
HMMPH/ WHAT A LIAR SHE IS.
USH
SOAH HAS SLEEP PARALYSIS!

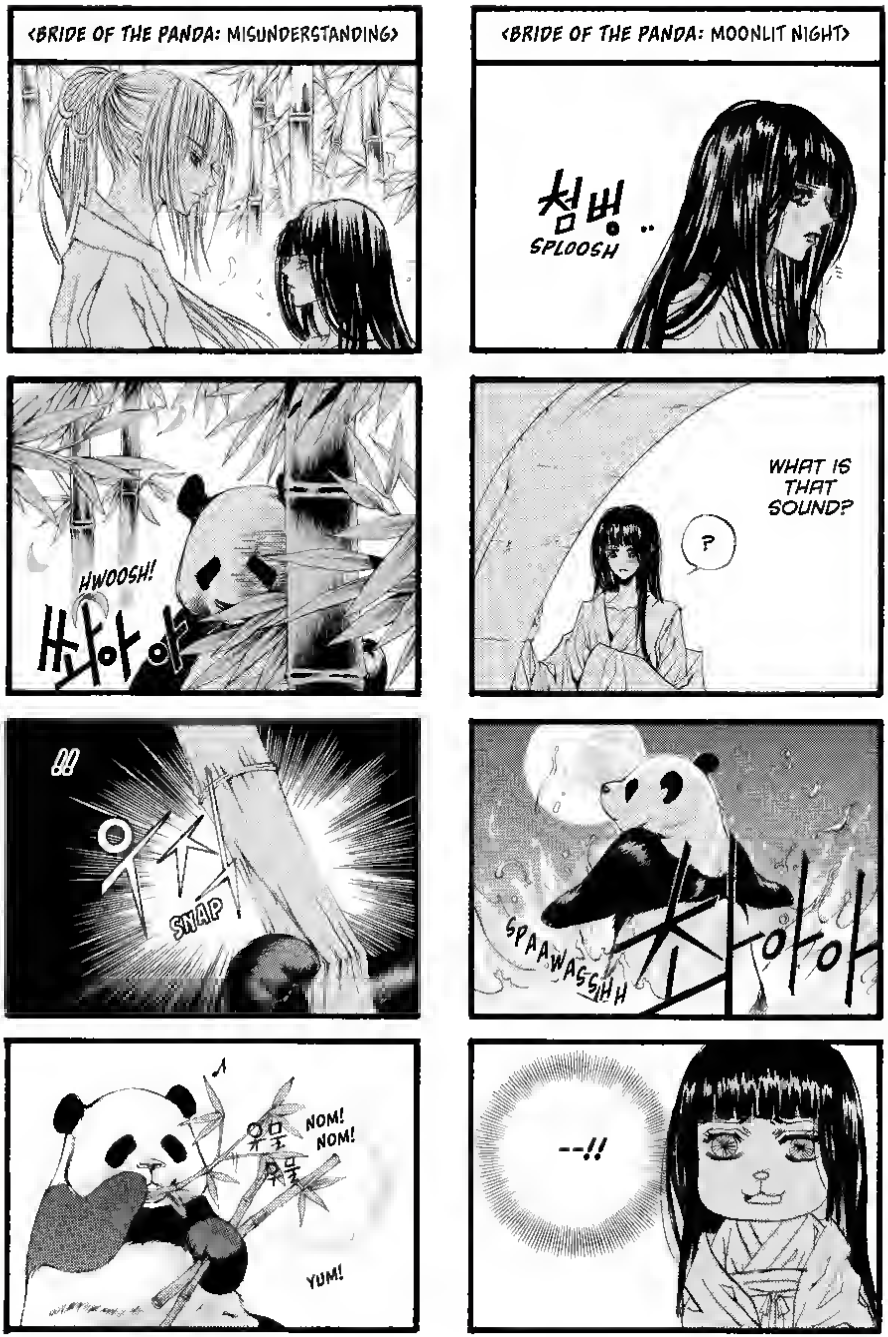
SPECIAL BONUS STRIPS!!

BRIDE OF THE PANDA PART 2





I'M PRACTICING KUNG FU PANDA.


<BRIDE OF THE PANDA: MISUNDERSTANDING>
<BRIDE OF THE PANDA: MOONLIT NIGHT>
첨벙..
SPLOOSH
HWOOSH!
WHAT IS THAT SOUND?
?
!!
SNAP
SPAAWASSHH
NOM! NOM!
YUM!
--!!

☆ MI-GAENG'S CLOSING DIARY ☆

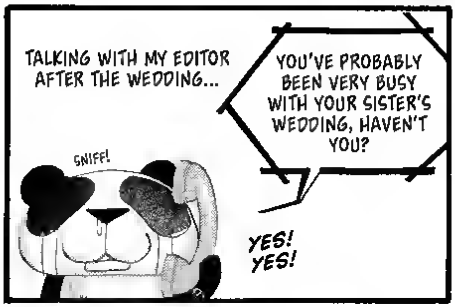
("MI-GAENG" IS MI-KYUNG YUN'S NICKNAME)

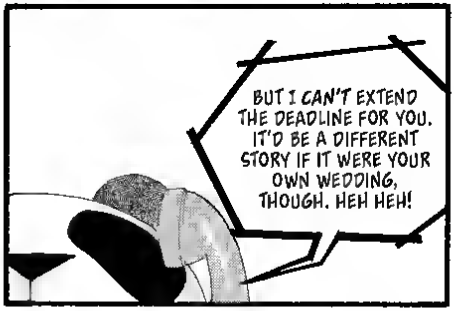
FULL-SCALE, REAL-TIME, CLOSING CARTOON!!

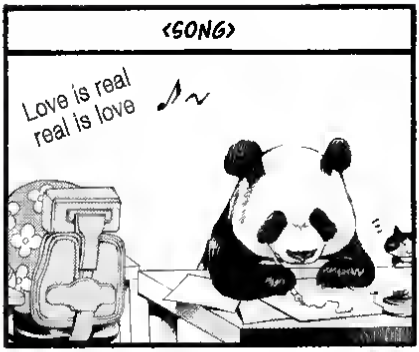
HELP ME!!

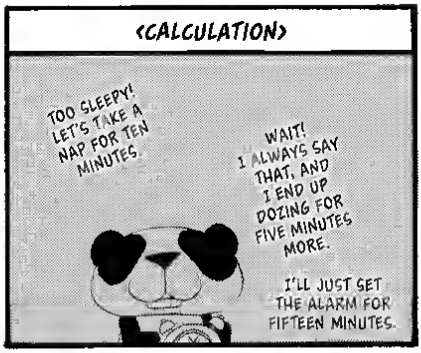
SELF-TORMENT STAGE

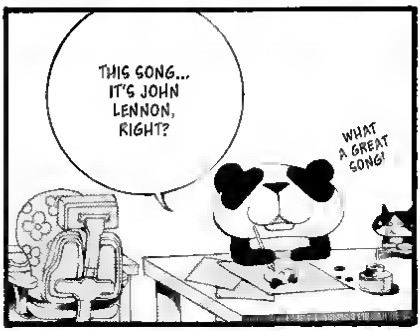
<MARRIAGE>
MY SISTER'S WEDDING HAPPENED TO FALL DURING A VERY INTENSE DEADLINE WEEK.
PLEASE DRAW CLOTHES ON ME BEFORE YOU TURN THIS BONUS STRIP IN!
SEE YOU AFTER OUR HONEY-MOON!
YES— DON'T WORRY.


TALKING WITH MY EDITOR AFTER THE WEDDING...
YOU'VE PROBABLY BEEN VERY BUSY WITH YOUR SISTER'S WEDDING, HAVEN'T YOU?
SNIFF!
YES! YES!

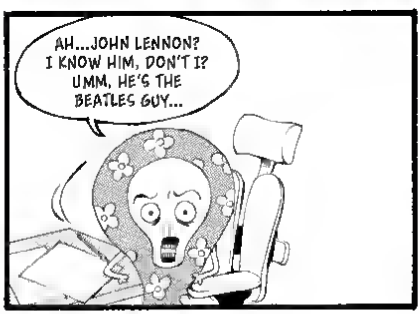





<CALCULATION>
TOO SLEEPY! LET'S TAKE A NAP FOR TEN MINUTES.
WAIT! I ALWAYS SAY THAT, AND I END UP DOZING FOR FIVE MINUTES MORE.
I'LL JUST SET THE ALARM FOR FIFTEEN MINUTES.



WHAT? OH, NO! I SLEPT FOR TWENTY MINUTES? IF I KNEW THIS WAS GOING TO HAPPEN, I WOULD HAVE SET THE ALARM TEN MINUTES LATER FROM THE START...
DING DING DING



SHOULD I SLEEP FOR FIVE MORE MINUTES? NO, ONLY FIVE MINUTES WILL MAKE ME MORE TIRED. MAYBE I SHOULD SLEEP FOR TEN MORE MINUTES...

WHAT ACTUALLY HAPPENED IS TOTALLY DIFFERENT!

MI-GAENG'S CLOSING DIARY--THE END!

This is my seventh volume. I used to think that if I got to seven volumes, I would be able to draw with my eyes closed—but why is it still as tough as it was at the beginning? T_T [crying face!] I'd like to say "thank you" and "sorry" to my editor. I'd also like to thank Yuni, who has been helping me a lot—while never showing how exhausted she really is. Thanks also to my friends and family, who are such a great source of strength by just being there for me. I would never be able to make it without all of you on my side. I won't get weak in the face of adversity—I will try to be strong.

—Mi-Kyung Yun

CREATOR PROFILE

Born on October 14, 1980. Majored in Animation at Mokwon University.

Received the silver medal for Seoul Media Group's "Shin-in-gong-mo-jeon" ("New Artist Debut Competition") for *Na-eu Jy-gu Bang-moon-gi* (*The Journey of My Earth Visit*) in 2003.

Received a "Shin-in-sang" ("Best New Artist") award from the Dokja-manhwa-daesang organization for *Railroad* in 2004.

Currently publishing *Bride of the Water God* serially in the Korean comics magazine *Wink*.

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윤미경

Mi-Kyung Yun

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BRIDE of the WATER GOD

Soah, our heroine, was saved from a strange, sacrificial ritual by Habaek, the young Water God. While Soah has come to appreciate the Water God and his kingdom, the heavenly Suguk, she's also fallen in love with a mysterious man named Mui. What she doesn't know is that Habaek *is* Mui—and he's been cursed to appear as a little boy during the day while he lives in his true adult form at night! Will Soah discover that she's torn between two versions of the same person, or will other sinister forces drive them apart? Soah and Habaek try to overcome a kidnapping, memory loss, pride, conflicting passions, and an array of devious interlopers on their paths to true love!

Korean writer/artist Mi-Kyung Yun's *Bride of the Water God* series has come to be a pinnacle in romance manhwa. With its gorgeous, multifaceted artwork, it has created a dizzying and arresting world full of lust and intrigue, similar in tone and spirit to some of CLAMP's best work. *Bride of the Water God* is a best-selling series in Korea, and Yun received the Best New Artist award in 2004 from the esteemed Dokja-manhwa-daesang organization. *Bride of the Water God* has also begun a run as a Korean television series!

GRAPHIC NOVEL/MANHWA/FANTASY
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